

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under § 103 on the basis of Koishi and Boutaghou et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because neither reference, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests a top surface of a head portion on the air outflow side that is lower than the air bearing portion, as in claims 1, 13 and new claim 21.

In Koishi, the head 35 is on the highest surface of the device, which is located at the air outflow end of the device. Lower surfaces 41, 38 are disclosed, but they are not at the air outflow sides of the head portion and dummy head portion.

In contrast, in the present invention, the head 4 is on a lower surface at the outflow side of the device, as seen in Fig. 5B. This provides advantages not found in Koishi, namely, protection of the head and better flying characteristics that can bring the head closer to the disk.

Boutaghou et al. do not disclose that air outflow side edge portions of the protective layer 68 are formed lower than a lower surface 73 of the protective layer 68, where the transducer element 64 is provided.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant believes that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicant's attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

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**In the Claims:**

New claim 21 was added as follows:

21. (New) A head slider for use in a disk drive unit comprising:

a slider main body having at least one air bearing portion on said head slider which files above a disk medium at an air outflow end thereof in such a manner that said at least one air bearing portion is raised higher by a step than said slider main body; and

a head unit provided adjacent to an air outflow end of said slider main body having a head portion comprised of head elements and a protection film for protecting said head elements projecting from a base portion thereof;

wherein a top surface of said base portion is in accord with a top surface of said slider main body;

said head portion is formed adjacent to one of said air bearing portion and a top surface thereof is formed lower than that of said air bearing portion; and

a rear end surface of the projection projecting from said base portion projects inside a rear end surface of said base portion.



## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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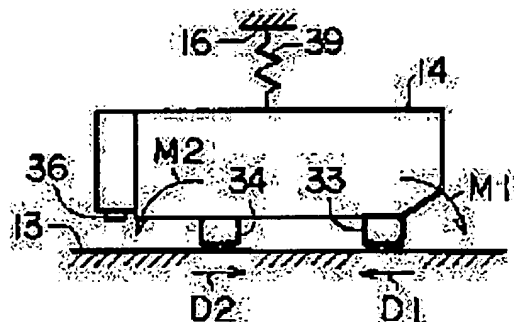
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## (54) FLOATING HEAD SLIDER AND RECORDING DISK DRIVING DEVICE

## (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a floating head slider capable of starting the normal rotation of a recording disk even when a spindle motor makes reverse rotation.

SOLUTION: A head element protective film, in which a head element is buried, is joined to the air outlet end of a slider main body. In the head element protective film, an sticking preventing projected piece 36 protruded from a medium opposite surface facing a recording disk 13 is formed. When the recording disk 13 is rotated in a reverse direction, moment M2 is applied with a support leg 34 as a fulcrum. At this time, a floating head slider 14 is inclined, and its air outlet end is brought into contact with the recording disk 13. By the work of the sticking preventing projected piece 36, the sticking force of lubricant oil spread on the surface of the recording disk 13 is weakened, and the transmitted to the floating head slider 14. Thus, the rotational failure of the magnetic disk 13 is prevented.



## LEGAL STATUS

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